

504-18 MILL STREET (Rowhouse)
Jeannette
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6111

HABS
PA
65-JEAN,
33-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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ADDENDUM TO:
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

504-18 MILL STREET (HOUSE)

HABS No. PA-6111

LOCATION: 504-18 Mill Street, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as "The Glass City" early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Like the double house at 633-35 Division Avenue (see HABS No. PA-5948), the McKee Glass Company probably built this building since the firm was first assessed for the improvement to the lots. The property was quickly transferred to company president Andrew J. Smith in late 1914. Following the ownership pattern for Smith's other holdings in the neighborhood, these row houses were held by the McKee Realty Company after 1922 and then were acquired by one of the company's officers in 1950. Individual owners began taking title to the houses in the early 1970s.

The McKee Realty Company, though it was controlled by those involved with the glass works, apparently rented the units independently of the factory. A listing of residents from the 1928 city directory shows six couples and a single man (only adults are noted). McKee employed the heads of three of the households, another was employed at the rubber works, one was a laborer, and two had no occupation listed. One of the houses was apparently vacant. A higher number of tenants were working for McKee in a similar sample from 1948. In the eight units, there were nine couples. Six of the household heads were working for McKee, one was employed at the window house, one was with the Elliot Company, and another, a former McKee employee, was probably retired.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A symmetrical group of eight row houses fills the west side of Mill Street between Division Avenue and the Sixth Street Extension. Built ca. 1914-15, two closely spaced windows above two windows and a door on the ground floor contrast with the evenness of the neighborhood's earlier row house facades. The dark red brick veneer is ornamented only toward the top with two corbelled bands and a row of brick dentils below the cast concrete cornice. The brick wall, however, continues above the cornice to

end with one slightly projecting course. The rear of each unit has a one-story ell and a covered side porch, with larger rear porches projecting off of either end unit.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Insurance Maps of Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1916, 1925.

Deed Books. Recorder of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. 291/14, 468/386, 481/461, 554/454, 555/153, 1393/265, 2163/998, 2409/309, 2842/292.

City Directories, 1897, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1948, 1960.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.